

ATARI® 2600® Game Manual



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Locate and Absorb Energy!

You're a scientist, and your invention, a pulsating, glowing orb called the Sentinel, absorbs and stores energy from a variety of sources. Now Earth is threatened by deadly aliens, and you must use your creation to save your planet.

You must defend the Sentinel against alien attacks as it glides over four enemy planets, absorbing all alien energy sources in its path.

The Sentinel absorbs the energy from every power pod or energy capsule you shoot with your light gun. When an energy source is hit, the Sentinel absorbs the target's energy.

Each of the four alien planets is more difficult to conquer than the last. You must find and destroy the alien lords who guard each planet's power station. Destroy the station to destroy the planet. Then move on to the next world.

A single alien entity controls the other alien lords. When you have destroyed the four worlds, the Sentinel will come face to face with this evil entity. Defeat the final evil to complete your quest!

Getting Started

1. With your TV switched on, insert the Sentinel cartridge into your Atari 2600 (or 7800) as described in your owner's manual. Switch on your console.
2. Connect a light gun to the left controller port.
3. To begin the game, press the fire button or press **RESET**.

Optional Game Controls

To enhance play, the following optional game controls allow you to pause and restart the game:

- If you are using an Atari 7800 press **PAUSE** to pause the game. Repeat to resume play. On a 2600, pause the game by moving the B/W button twice (up and down or down and up, depending on the original location); repeat to resume play.
- To return to the title screen and restart the game, press **RESET**.

Playing the Game

Sentinel is a fast action arcade-style game requiring lightning fast reflexes and skillful shooting through four deadly alien landscapes. A direct hit on enemy power cells, ground and air attack vehicles, colonists, and other obstacles drains the energy from

the alien source and feeds it into the Sentinel.

You begin the game with four lives. Damage from enemy fire bleeds energy from the Sentinel, and too many hits from enemy fire destroys the Sentinel.

The Sentinel moves steadily across each alien landscape. You must destroy enemies on the ground before they have a chance to fire, and blast enemy ships out of the sky before they can touch the Sentinel.

Some aliens do more damage than others. Each alien world contains a greater number and variety of alien obstacles than the previous world. The aliens move with greater and greater speeds, darting in to steal precious energy from the Sentinel. Try to blast as many aliens as you can and absorb their energy. Try not to miss an alien. If you miss an alien twice, your energy decreases by one point. You will need to store a great deal of energy to survive the deadly battles with alien leaders.

At the end of each alien world you will encounter the spinning space station of that world's alien leader. The sinister stations quickly repair damage inflicted upon them. You must shoot fast to destroy the Station before the repairs are completed.

You can also pick up power pods and energy capsules on each alien

world. These pods and capsules will enhance your shooting abilities or provide extra capabilities to the Sentinel. (See **Items**.)

Screens

The Sentinel screen is divided into two sections. The top section shows game action. The lower section is the statistics screen.

The Statistics screen shows, from left to right:

Top Line—Current score

= —The number of orbs (lives) remaining.

P—Your current Power Points (50 max)

D—The distance left to the end of the level.

S—Super Shots: only works when this number is at 99. Super Shots slowly recharge after each use.

Items

You can find the following items on enemy worlds to help you in your battle:

Energy Pod circles the Sentinel.

Super Shots destroy all enemies on the screen. Activate Super Shots by shooting one shot at the Sentinel orb itself. You begin the

game with three Super Shots and earn more from Energy Pods. Super Shots are not effective against alien leaders.

Automatic Shots cause the Sentinel to automatically absorb energy from enemy air or ground targets.

Movement allows the Sentinel to increase vertical movement speed.

Energy Capsules revitalize the Sentinel.

Strategy

There are unmarked secret places in each alien world. Locating these hidden areas and firing at them will provide you with bonus points and items.

Use Super Shots only when you are hopelessly outnumbered or in a similarly bad situation.

Always shoot the enemies closest to you first.

Scoring

Dish	10
Tube	20
Star	30
Satellite	40
Blob	50
Spike	60
Hover Craft	70
Probe	80
Mine	90

Bonus Pods	10
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Large Pyramid	10 to 500 (mystery value)
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Medium Pyramid	100
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Small Pyramid	250
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Big Aliens	50 per hit
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